

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 03743 290431Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3743

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3743

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY, US
SUBJ: US-URUGUAYAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 094075

1. CONTENT OF REFTEL REPORTING CONVERSATION WITH PEREZ CALDAS, ARANEO AND TALAMAS WAS NOT PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING IN TERMS OF FORWARD MOVEMENT ON OUR MAJOR PROBLEM, BUT WE DO NOT SEE THIS AS OVERRIDING IMPEDIMENT TO OUR OBJECTIVES, E.G. IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE. LATTER WILL BE SLOW PROCESS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE CLOSED OFF PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN PRESIDENT PRIVATELY AND FONMIN ROVIRA BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY HAVE STRESSED FUNDAMENTAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

2. WE CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD RESPOND TO URUGUAYAN NOTE, IF EVEN ON BASIS WHICH DOES NOT COMMIT US TO ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, DOOR SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN. WE BELIEVE THAT IF PROBLEMS EXIST THE BEST MANNER OF ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THEM IS TO DISCUSS THEM WHETHER CONCRETE RESULTS
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ARE IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING OR NOT. TO THIS EXTENT, WE QUESTION WHETHER DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS WITHOUT RESULTS (PARA FOUR REFTEL) WOULD BE MORE HARMFUL THAN HELPFUL. NOT TO BE WILLING TO DISCUSS ISSUES CERTAINLY WOULD BE HARMFUL AS WOULD BE PRE-CONDITIONS. WE DOUBT THAT URUGUAYAN NOTE WAS TESTING OF THE WATERS. WE BELIEVE RATHER THAT GOU DOES SEEK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US AND THAT

NOTE WAS GENUINE ATTEMPT TO BE FORTHCOMING IN THIS RESPECT.

3. EVEN SHOULD GOU WISH TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS AT "UNIVERSAL LEVEL," THIS AT LEAST MAINTAINS DIALOGUE AND COULD VERY WELL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS URUGUAYAN SPECIFICS AS RELATED "UNIVERSAL PRACTICES." IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE CONSIDERATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN TO DISCUSSIONS AT LEVEL HIGHER THAN EMBASSY TO GOU HERE, BUT AGENDA WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. IF DURING COURSE OF THAT EXERCISE THERE APPEARED TO BE NO COMMON MEETING GROUND, THEN QUESTION OF DISCUSSIONS COULD BE SUSPENDED FOR TIME BEING.

4. AS INTERIM STEP, IF DEPARTMENT REMAINS RELUCTANT ENGAGE NOW IN TYPE OF DISCUSSIONS AS INVITED DO SO BY GOU, THEN WE SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO VISIT BY CONGRESSMAN OR SENATOR ACCOMPANIED BY STATE ESCORT OFFICER. WE ARE THINKING OF SENATOR OF STATURE, FOR EXAMPLE, OF SENATOR HUMPHREY. THIS TYPE OF VISIT WOULD AT LEAST RESPOND DIRECTLY TO ANOTHER OF FONMINISTER'S SUGGESTIONS MADE IN ALL SINCERITY.
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